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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Galen M. Gareis)
CASE: 6500-1801) Examiner of Parent:
SERIAL NO.: Continuation of 09/452,702) William H. Mayo III
FILED ON: 12/02/99)
FOR: A Cable Separator Spline)
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of Issue Fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany this payment.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner William H. Mayo at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Telephone No: 703-305-1341 on April 2, 2001.

By: _____
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Prior to examining the above-identified application, please make the following
Amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, insert ~~F~~ This is a continuation application of application

09/452,702 filed December 12, 1999-- ~~now~~ **PATENTED**

IN THE CLAIMS.

~~Cancel claims 7-16.~~

Amend claim 1 as follows:

- Sub* 1. A communication cable separator spline comprising:
a longitudinally extending spline having a plurality of spaced longitudinally extending
open pockets,
a cross-section of said spline having a major axis and a minor axis,
said major axis having a length (36) larger than a length (37) of said minor axis,
at least one pocket being on the major axis, and
at least one pocket being on the minor axis

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art. No new matter has been entered.